

# **Woman's Home Mission Society**

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**Methodist Episcopal  
Church, South**

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**Twenty-Third Annual Report**

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**1909**

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**Early JME South (later Buena Vista)**

## PACIFIC COAST WORK.—C. F. Reid, Superintendent.

ESTARLISHED 1897.

### THE ALAMEDA JAPANESE MISSION.

The Mary Helm Hall is becoming the center of quite a variety of work. I am sorry to say that in the early part of the year a disagreement arose in the mission that resulted in the loss of several of our members. A change of pastors restored the equilibrium, and I am glad to report that I have never known a better and more harmonious spirit in the mission than that which now prevails.

Many of the night school pupils have gone to the country for the summer, but the congregations at the preaching services are keeping up remarkably well. Last Sunday, at a Children's Day service, there were present twenty-four little children, and the parents and friends quite filled the rooms we now use for a chapel.

In my estimates for the coming year it will be noted that I am asking for an appropriation for enlarging our chapel facilities. May I not urge that this be given special consideration? Since we began work among the Japanese children, the parents and friends of the children are coming to the Mission in increasing numbers, and we frequently find the rooms we are now using uncomfortably crowded. The indications are that this will more and more be the case, and the prosperity of our work in Alameda really demands early attention to this matter. If it is possible to grant the appropriation this year, I am sure it will be a good use of the money.

Out of the little Sunday school gathered by Mrs. Miano has grown quite an interesting work among the children of Alameda, which, in its turn, is attracting to us the mothers of the children.

Mrs. Miano was formerly a teacher in the Middle Schools of Japan. She came to America several years ago to marry her betrothed husband, Mr. Miano, who had become a member of our Mission. She landed here, a very beautiful girl, but unacquainted with Christ. However, she soon became interested in Christianity, and was soundly converted in our mission. Like all true converts, she at once felt the desire to do something, and on her own motion and without asking or expecting any remuneration began seeking Japanese children and bringing them to the mission on Sunday. She finally had about a dozen coming regularly. When opportunity came for securing a good kindergarten teacher, a day kindergarten was opened. The older of these children are advanced into a primary department; and in the two departments we now have about thirty children. We unfortunately lost our kindergarten teacher, and have not been very successful with this part of the school of late; but since Mr. Manabe returned to Japan he has secured another for us, who will begin her work in September. This Japanese lady has been well trained in one of our Christian schools in Kobe, and

we are expecting a large increase in this part of our work when she arrives.

It was a great loss to our mission when Mr. Manabe received an urgent call to a professorship in the Kwansei Gakuin, our Methodist college at Kobe. He had completed his studies at the Stanford University, and was giving his entire time to our work in Alameda. A devout Christian, a perfect gentleman, and a finished scholar, he had the respect and affection of the Japanese community, and was able to exert a commanding influence.

Another loss we sustained was in the going home of Mr. B. Yada. Mr. Yada was the first convert made in our mission. It was a remarkable case. The night he was baptized he led in a prayer so strong and so tender that the congregation was greatly moved. It is a rare thing to see a Japanese shed tears, but many rose from their knees at the conclusion of Mr. Yada's prayer with streaming eyes, and the scene that followed as he went among his companions and personally pleaded with them to accept Christ was one I had not witnessed before among Japanese. He has ever since been looking to the ministry, but felt that his meager education in Japanese would always be a hindrance to him. So he has been saving money with which to return to his own country and acquire a better education from a Japanese standpoint. A recent letter informs me that he has entered our school at Kobe, where he is now hard at work. While we keenly realize the loss to our Mission of such men as Manabe, Yada, Murata, and Muraoka, yet we feel that in preparing and inspiring them for a larger work among their own people we are accomplishing the highest purpose for which our missions were founded.

In my estimates for the coming year, I am asking an appropriation for the support of two deaconesses. I am asking for two because it seems to me that one working alone would be at a great disadvantage. There is so fixed a prejudice among Americans on this Coast against Orientals that even with two I fear they would not find it advisable to live in the mission with Japanese. However, that would be a question to determine after they had studied the situation.

I do not think it would be safe to appropriate less than \$600 each for their maintenance. Living is expensive about the Bay of San Francisco; and should they board, they would have to pay \$30 per month for very ordinary accommodations. It seems to me that two such workers might greatly enlarge the sphere of our influence, and that eventually the entire work might be committed into their hands. It would be well that one of them should be able to play and conduct singing and that the other should have some knowledge of kindergarten methods. Should this proposal be accepted by the Board, there would be a saving of \$45 per month to partly offset the appropriation, for they could do the work now being done by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Standefer and a lady teacher we hope to have for the night school in Oakland.

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